



## **MECKLENBURG COUNTY**

### **A Meeting of the Greenway Advisory Council**

#### **MINUTES**

December 9, 2013

6:00 pm at Matthews Community Center  
100 McDowell Street  
Matthews, NC

#### **GREENWAY ADVISORY COUNCIL**

##### **MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Ed Barnhart, Chair  
Mark Loflin  
Dick Winters  
Bob Carter  
Roy Alexander

#### **GREENWAY ADVISORY COUNCIL**

##### **MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Brian Malec  
Aubin Guinness  
Doug Burnett

#### **STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT**

Jim Garges, Department Director  
Gwen Cook, Planner  
Kevin Brickman, Planner  
Bert Lynn, Project Manager, Asset and Facilities Management

#### **CONSULTANT MEMBERS PRESENT**

John Cock, Alta/Greenways  
Maya Agarwal, Alta/Greenways  
Blake Sanders, Alta/Greenways  
Kenny Draffen, McKim and Creed

#### **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 6:15 PM.

## **CITIZEN PARTICIPATION**

1. Proclamations and Awards – none
2. Presentations – **Community Workshop #1 - Campbell Creek Greenway** – a 1 mile extension of the existing Campbell Creek Greenway at W.T. Harris Blvd to Lockmont Drive.  
Ed Barnhart opened the meeting by introducing Park & Rec staff, the Greenway Advisory Council members present and the role they will play in the project.  
Gwen Cook presented an overview of what greenways are, how they are used and the existing/proposed greenway miles planned for the county.  
Maya Agarwal and Blake Sanders with Alta/Greenways conducted a PowerPoint presentation describing the design process, ADA accessibility, project schedule and site analysis of the project, a preliminary trail alignment with suggested building materials such as bridges, boardwalks and retaining walls. They invited public comments from the 4 citizens who attended the workshop.  
A second Community Workshop will take place in Spring 2014. A venue closer to the project site will be considered.  
The following is a summary of what was discussed during the workshop:

- **Are there concerns about security issues with the greenway?**

Response- Greenways do not raise the crime levels in the neighborhoods they serve. More people using the greenway with more eyes in the area will discourage crime. The types of people who use greenways do not commit crimes and are prone to “self police” the greenway and respect private property. Wayfinding signage will be included on the greenway to orient people and will post the greenway rules and regulations. Ed encouraged the citizens to visit the other greenways such as Four Mile Creek Greenway and speak to the neighbors about their thoughts of the greenway.

- **What are the environmental impacts with the construction of the greenway?**

Response- The final alignment of the main trail and neighborhood access trails will be based on topography, utility easements, vegetation and wetlands to minimize site disturbance. Once the site survey has been completed, the alignment of the greenway trail will be adjusted to ensure ADA accessibility, minimal disturbance of wetlands by the use of bridges/boardwalks and preservation of existing trees. Wildlife will not be affected and have been seen on our other greenways throughout the county during and after construction. Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation works closely with LUESA (Land Use and Environmental Services Agency) that will oversee the water quality of Campbell Creek during permitting and construction. Existing erosion areas and threatened, uprooted trees will be evaluated and addressed to minimize further damage during storm events.

Reforestation efforts can be considered in areas that are devoid of trees. The Natural Resources Department will be walking the project site to note any threatened plant species, specimen trees, wildlife, and water resources. Their findings will be taken into account during the design of the greenway to ensure the preservation of natural features. The citizens were encouraged to walk the creek corridor with Natural Resources when it is scheduled after the first of the year.

- **Question- Where will the neighborhood access trails/parking be located?**

Response- There are two potential access points of county-owned property indicated on the plans. Neighborhood access trails are narrower than the main greenway trail – 6’ to 8’ wide. These access points need to meet ADA Standards for accessibility. These access trails will be landscaped and maintained by the county along with the main trail. Parking at trail access points will not be provided and has not been a problem on other greenways. These access trails are for the residents that live in the surrounding community. We are in discussions with Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools for allowing parking at Idlewild Elementary School during evenings and weekends for greenway users. Trailhead parking currently exists at Margaret Wallace Road and McAlpine Creek Park.

- **Question- Can the Greenway trail be located within the Piedmont Natural Gas Easement on the east side of the creek?**

Response- The trail cannot be placed over top of the Piedmont Natural Gas line that runs along the creek. The site survey will clearly show where this gas line is located and we will avoid building the trail near it. We are allowed to cross the gas line perpendicular but cannot run the trail parallel over the line. PNG periodically inspects the gas line for wear/damage and need to have unencumbered access to the line at all times.

## **CONSENT ITEMS**

3. Minutes from the November 11, 2013 GAC Meeting

## **ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS REPORTS AND REQUESTS**

4. Ed inquired about the status of the bike bells. Kevin mentioned he has been in contact with the manufacturer about a bulk price for the bells. He has not heard back and will touch base with them again.
5. There was a discussion about “Bicycle Etiquette” to make the greenways safer for pedestrians. Kevin and Gwen will conduct further research to learn how other cities deal with this issue and what they have done to get the word out. Signage is not always the best way to communicate. Public Service Announcements and social media were discussed to help spread the word about bicycle/pedestrian safety on the greenways. The bells mentioned above will help alert pedestrians of approaching cyclists.

## **STAFF REPORTS**

6. Gwen mentioned the next GAC/ Community Workshop is scheduled for Monday, January 13, 2014 for the Long Creek Greenway – Phase 1. The workshop will be held at the Park Church - Classroom 100 at 6029 Beatties Ford Road, Charlotte, NC.

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

- **Monday, January 13, 2014 at 6:00 PM** – Long Creek Greenway – Phase 1 Community Workshop – The Park Church, 6029 Beatties Ford Road.
- **Monday, February 10, 2014 at 6:00 PM** – Mahlon Adams Pavilion at Freedom Park – 2435 Cumberland Avenue
- **Monday, March 10, 2014 at 6:00 PM** – Mahlon Adams Pavilion at Freedom Park – 2435 Cumberland Avenue

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting ended at approximately 7:45 pm.